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ABSTRACT

This report examines the college graduates who remain in Maryland after graduation to live and work. The information is based on a series of follow-up surveys of bachelor's degree recipients and community college graduates conducted one year after graduation by the Maryland Higher Education Commission over the past 20 years. The analysis covers data only from Maryland public institutions because data from independent institutions has not been consistently available. The items on the questionnaire have remained the same over the entire period of the study; students were asked to identify their: (1) academic major; (2) residency status at the time students initially enrolled; (3) residency status one year after graduation; and (4) place of employment. The data show that at least 85 percent of bachelor's degree recipients who were Maryland residents at enrollment remained in Maryland, and at least 31 percent who were out-of-state residents at enrollment remained in Maryland. However, there are considerable differences when the data is examined by academic major. In general, the percentage of community college graduates who remain in Maryland is higher than the percentage of bachelor's degree recipients. Two appendices detail full-time employment fields of graduates one year after graduation. (RH)

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MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

STUDY ON THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF MARYLAND GRADUATES

M Rosenthal

April 2000

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STUDY ON THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF MARYLAND GRADUATES

In response to interest in the number of Maryland graduates who find work in the State, the Maryland Higher Education Commission examined the employment trends and residency status of bachelor's degree recipients and community college graduates from Maryland public institutions. The purpose of this report is to examine the number of college graduates who remain in Maryland after graduation to live and work.

METHODOLOGY

This report uses information from a series of follow-up surveys of bachelor's degree recipients and community college graduates conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission over the last 20 years. These surveys were conducted one year following graduation. The pertinent items on the questionnaire for the bachelor's degree survey have remained consistent throughout the history of the survey. Survey participants were asked to identify:

- their academic major;
- their residency status at the time of they initially enrolled at a college or university;
- their residency status one year after graduation
- their place of employment.

The corresponding items in the survey of community college graduates also remained consistent over the years. Participants in these surveys were asked to identify their academic major as well as their place of employment.

This analysis does not include data from the independent institutions because participation of these institutions has been inconsistent, except in the most recent years. All respondents examined in this report were employed full-time. Detailed tables are included in appendix A.

FINDINGS

Bachelor's Degree Recipients

- Of the 1982 bachelor's degree recipients employed full-time, 68 percent worked in Maryland one year after graduation. In 1997, only slightly less (65 percent) of the graduates remained in the State to work one year after graduation.

- Since 1982, a substantial majority (between 85 percent and 89 percent) of respondents who lived in Maryland at the time of their initial enrollment still lived in the State at the time they were surveyed (Table 1). Furthermore, between 31 and 37 percent of those who were out-of-state residents at the time they first entered a Maryland institution remained in the State after graduation. In the most recent year, 89 percent of those graduates who were Maryland residents at matriculation were still living in the State--as were one-third of those graduates who had originally come from outside Maryland.

Table 1. Percentage of Bachelor's Degree Recipients Who Remained in Maryland By Residency Status At Time of First Enrollment Selected Years: 1982 to 1997

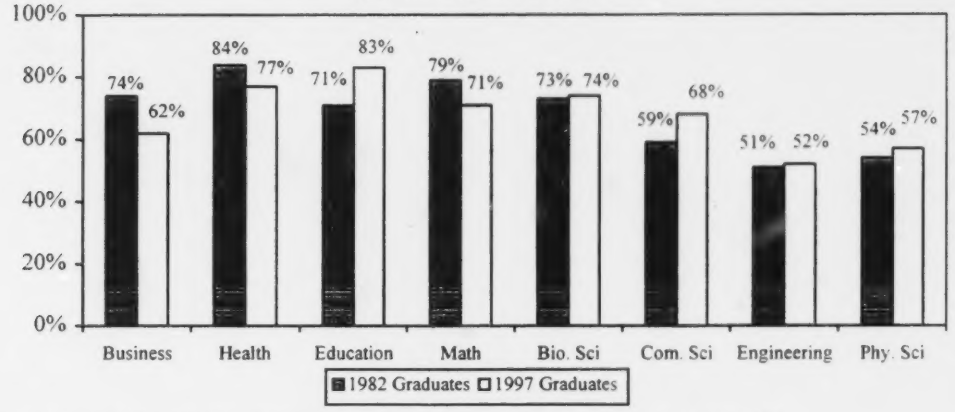
Years	Maryland Residents At Enrollment	Out-of-State Residents At Enrollment
1982	87%	32%
1985	86%	37%
1988	88%	34%
1991	89%	31%
1993	89%	35%
1996	85%	31%
1997	89%	33%

Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission Bachelor's Degree Follow-up Surveys, 1982 to 1997.

- Among both 1982 and 1997 graduates, those who majored in health, education, mathematics and the biological sciences were among the most likely to work in the State one year after graduation. Graduates in both years who majored in the physical sciences and engineering were among those least likely to remain in the State.

- There was a sharp increase between 1982 and 1997 in the percentage of education and computer science graduates who took jobs in the State, but a noticeable drop in the proportion of business majors who remained in Maryland. By 1997, 83 percent of education majors remained in the State compared to 71 percent in 1982. Among the 1997 graduates who majored in computer science, 68 percent remained compared to only 59 percent in 1982. In 1982, 74 percent of the business graduates took jobs in Maryland; in 1997, this figure was 62 percent (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Percentage of Bachelor's Degree Recipients Working In Maryland By Selected Academic Majors



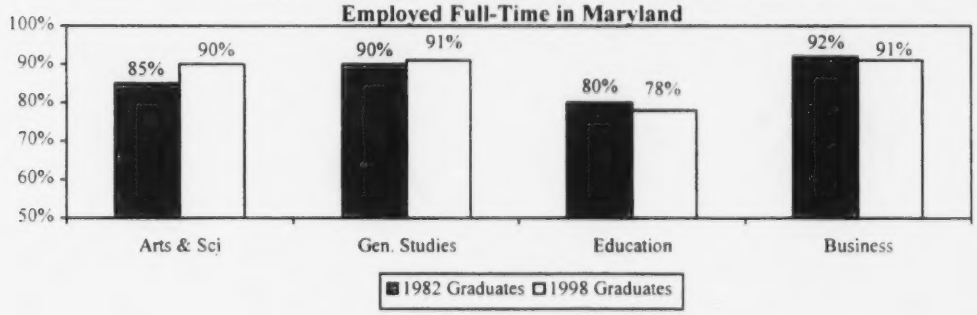
Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission Bachelor's Degree Follow-up Surveys, 1982 to 1997.

Community College Graduates

- The percentage of community college graduates who took full-time jobs in Maryland has barely changed over the years: 85 percent among the 1982 graduates and 86 percent among the 1998 graduates.

- Graduates of community college transfer programs were more likely to remain in the State for employment than graduates of career programs. Ninety percent or more of the fully-employed 1998 transfer program graduates who majored in the arts and sciences, business and general studies were working in Maryland (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Percentage of Community College Transfer Program Graduates Employed Full-Time in Maryland



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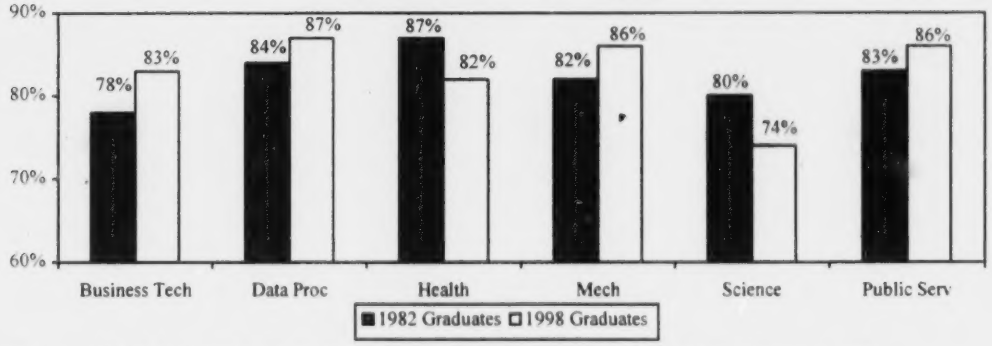
Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission Community College Graduate Follow-Up Survey, 1982-1998.

- Among the graduates of career programs, more of those who majored in business technologies, data processing, mechanical and engineering technologies, and public service technologies were working in the State in 1998 than in 1982. There were fewer graduates in the health and natural sciences technologies employed full-time in Maryland in 1998 than in 1982. (Figure 3).

Figure 3
Percentage of Community College Career Program Graduates Employed Full-Time in Maryland



Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission Community College Graduate Follow-up Surveys, 1982 to 1998.

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APPENDIX A

Table A-1. Place of Employment of Bachelor's Degree Recipients Employed Full-Time One Year After Graduation By Discipline: 1982 to 1997

Academic Program	1982		1985		1988		1991		1993		1996		1997	
	MD	State Out-of	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State
Ag.& Nat. Res.	60%	40%	68%	32%	72%	28%	58%	42%	69%	31%	66%	35%	61%	39%
Arch & Env Res.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	53%	47%	86%	14%	*	*
Area Studies	*	*	*	*	*	*	61%	39%	72%	28%	*	*	*	*
Bio. Sciences	73%	27%	79%	21%	80%	20%	73%	27%	72%	28%	58%	42%	74%	26%
Business	74%	26%	65%	35%	70%	30%	65%	35%	69%	31%	57%	17%	62%	38%
Communications	60%	40%	51%	49%	53%	47%	48%	52%	62%	38%	59%	41%	56%	44%
Computer Science	59%	41%	67%	33%	77%	23%	66%	34%	69%	31%	70%	30%	68%	32%
Education	71%	29%	77%	23%	75%	25%	82%	18%	81%	19%	71%	29%	83%	17%
Engineering	51%	49%	61%	39%	57%	43%	54%	46%	52%	48%	51%	49%	52%	48%
Fine & App. Arts	60%	40%	60%	40%	68%	32%	71%	29%	74%	26%	63%	37%	63%	37%
Foreign Language	*	*	71%	29%	58%	42%	62%	38%	61%	39%	66%	34%	47%	53%
Health	84%	16%	78%	22%	77%	23%	78%	22%	78%	22%	76%	24%	77%	24%
Home Economics	57%	43%	52%	48%	43%	57%	53%	47%	52%	48%	55%	45%	46%	54%
Interdisciplinary	62%	38%	52%	48%	56%	44%	57%	43%	58%	42%	51%	49%	53%	47%
Letters	71%	29%	62%	38%	68%	32%	67%	33%	58%	42%	49%	51%	60%	40%
Mathematics	79%	21%	76%	24%	75%	25%	75%	25%	80%	20%	71%	29%	71%	29%
Physical Science	54%	46%	58%	42%	59%	41%	72%	28%	60%	40%	75%	25%	57%	43%
Psychology	75%	25%	75%	25%	76%	24%	75%	25%	67%	33%	53%	47%	72%	28%
Pub. Affairs	71%	29%	64%	36%	73%	27%	60%	40%	77%	23%	86%	14%	79%	21%
Social Science	69%	31%	62%	38%	61%	39%	60%	40%	64%	36%	50%	50%	64%	36%
Total	68%	32%	63%	37%	66%	34%	65%	35%	68%	32%	59%	41%	65%	35%

Note:

*Number of Respondents was less than 15.

Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission Bachelor's Degree Follow-up Surveys, 1982 to 1997.

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Table A-2. Place of Employment of Community College Graduates Employed Full-Time One Year After Graduation By Academic Program: 1982 to 1998

Academic Program	1982		1986		1990		1992		1994		1996		1998	
	MD	State Out-of	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State	MD	Out-of State
Transfer Programs														
Arts and Sciences	85%	15%	100%	0%	90%	10%	77%	23%	89%	11%	91%	9%	90%	10%
Engineering	*	*	88%	12%	88%	12%	81%	19%	90%	10%	*	*	*	*
General Studies	90%	10%	90%	10%	88%	12%	82%	18%	84%	16%	84%	16%	91%	9%
Education	80%	20%	88%	12%	77%	23%	81%	19%	85%	15%	92%	8%	78%	22%
Business	92%	8%	93%	7%	91%	9%	89%	11%	87%	13%	86%	14%	91%	9%
Computer	*	*	*	*	70%	30%	67%	33%	54%	46%	74%	26%	73%	27%
Career Programs														
Business Tech	78%	22%	82%	18%	76%	24%	77%	23%	76%	24%	83%	17%	83%	17%
Data Processing	84%	16%	83%	17%	81%	19%	79%	21%	71%	29%	76%	24%	87%	13%
Health Tech	87%	13%	82%	18%	85%	15%	76%	24%	81%	19%	84%	16%	82%	18%
Mech Tech	82%	18%	87%	13%	85%	15%	86%	14%	84%	16%	89%	11%	86%	14%
Science Tech	80%	20%	84%	6%	93%	7%	93%	7%	64%	36%	*	*	74%	26%
Public Service Tech	83%	17%	82%	18%	81%	19%	78%	22%	81%	19%	86%	14%	86%	14%
Total	85%	15%	85%	15%	83%	17%	80%	20%	81%	19%	84%	16%	86%	14%

Note:

*Number of Respondents was less than 15

Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission Community College Graduate Follow-up Surveys, 1982 to 1998.